

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for drying bulk material, ~~especially bark, sawdust, pretreated sludge or a mixture of these~~ in a drying space (7), in which ~~method comprising:~~
 - (a) ~~conveying~~ [[-]] material to be dried is conveyed with at least one drying conveyor by means of one or several drying conveyors (15) located in the drying space [(7)],
 - (b) ~~feeding~~ [[-]] gas ~~is fed~~ into the drying space [(7)],
 - (c) ~~heating~~ [[-]] the gas, ~~and is heated,~~
 - (d) ~~conducting~~ [[-]] the heated gas through the at least one drying conveyor is conducted through said one or several drying conveyors (15) conveying the material to be dried [, -] and thereafter discharging the gas that has passed through the at least one drying conveyor from (15) is conducted out of the drying space, wherein (7), characterised in that step (c) includes heating the gas is heated with waste water produced in a pulp or paper production process while simultaneously cooling the waste water, whereby said waste water is simultaneously cooled.
2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterised in that, in this method,~~ [[-]] the drying conveyor [(15)] comprises a chain conveyor [(19),] which supports and carries along a wire mesh or screen fabric [(21),] on which the material to be dried is conveyed, and wherein whereby

step (d) includes conducting the [[-]] heated gas ~~is conducted~~ through the wire mesh or screen fabric [[[21]]] and through the material to be dried that is carried on the wire mesh or screen fabric.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the gas to be heated is air.
4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the temperature of the heated gas is 35–85 °C.
5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the gas is heated by hot waste water in a heat exchanger [[[13]]].
6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein characterised in that~~ the gas is heated in [[the]] a heat exchanger [[[13]]] in the drying space [[[7]]].
7. (currently amended) An apparatus [[[1)]] for drying bulk material, ~~especially bark, sawdust, pretreated sludge or a mixture of these, which apparatus (1) comprises:~~
[[[-]] a drying space [[[7)]],
[[[-]] at least one gas heating device [[[13)]],
- at least one blower one or several blowers (9) located outside the drying space (7), which blower is arranged to blow gas into the drying space [[[7)]] via said gas heating device for producing heated gas [[[13)]] and/or to suck cooled gas out of the drying space, ~~(7), and~~
[[[-]] at least one or several drying conveyor conveyors (15) located in the drying space, the at least one drying conveyor carrying a bed of material to be dried through the drying space such that (7), through which drying conveyor the heated gas is arranged to travel through the at least one

conveyor and through the bed of material carried thereby, and
~~characterised in that the apparatus (1) furthermore comprises~~
connectors for conducting waste water produced in a pulp or paper production
process into and out of the gas heating device, ~~wherein the (13), which~~
gas heating device is arranged to heat gas with the waste water while
[[and]] simultaneously ~~cooling the to cool~~ waste water with the said gas,
and wherein
the drying conveyor comprises a chain conveyor equipped with a drive apparatus
and a wire mesh or screen fabric supported by and running on the chain
conveyor such that the heated gas travels through the wire mesh or
screen fabric.

8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[8]] 7, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the wire [[21]] mesh or screen fabric and the chain
conveyor [[19]] are substantially equal in width.
10. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[8]] 7, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the width of the wire mesh or screen fabric [[21]] is 2–8
metres.
11. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[8]] 7, wherein
~~characterised in that~~ the chain conveyor [[19]] has two chains [[33]] and,
~~between these,~~ wire mesh or screen fabric support members [[35]] between the
two chains.
12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
~~characterised in that~~ at least one gas heating device [[[13)]] is arranged inside
the drying space [[[7)]]].
14. – 18. (canceled)
19. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a paper mill having a
paper production process, wherein the connectors are arranged to conduct waste
water produced in the paper production process of the paper mill into and out of
the at least one gas heating device.
20. (new) An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising a paper mill having a pulp
production process, wherein the connectors are arranged to conduct waste water
produced in the pulp production process of the pulp mill into and out of the gas
heating device.
21. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bulk material comprises bark,
sawdust, pretreated sludge or mixtures thereof.
22. (new) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the chain conveyor is operated at
a speed of 0.02-0.1 metres per second.